

night with a woman suffering from an accident that I am led to believe is, more or less, of rare occurrence in the female—an unruly and persistent inguinal hernia. It was the first descent of the intestine, and tightly held in the grasp of the parts. Taxis, cold and other attentions were faithfully put in evidence, but, all the same, the rupture held full sway. The situation remained so obstinate and full of mischief that the only way out of it appeared to be through the knife. Now, I do not pretend to be much of a philosopher or a genius in expedients, but I had the faith to believe that the law of gravitation would, if used, prove as immutable and salutary in the premises as everywhere else—that it would hold as good in the case of an erring intestine as it did in the rest of the works of nature, and, as I am a humble believer in the benign influences of nature and nature's laws, the principle was seized upon and took root. A fresh looking woman of the soil, who had been showing great interest and sympathy in both the doctor and patient, was appealed to for help and yielded. Without much difficulty we raised the foot of the bed the patient was lying upon to an angle approaching ninety degrees, and firmly secured the supports.

In the course of half an hour or so the constricted portion of the bowel returned, bag and baggage, to its old home in the abdominal cavity in nearly as good condition as it left it hours before. The laws of gravitation, too, had once more, of a certainty, proved that circumstances do not change their habits or lessen their power and usefulness. There was no mistaking it; our troubles were well over, and it only remains to add that local and gastric attentions and a properly adjusted truss finished the business.

On three similar occasions of hernia since (all male) I have had the satisfaction of seeing this same law of gravitation prove itself as effective a factor or agent—an inflexible entity and faithful servant, but, in these instances, not much time or thought were wasted in taxis or other operations sometimes performed. The lower ends of the beds were elevated, as before, without ceremony, cold used each time, and, in due season, every one took its place in the orthodox way, the usual gurgle not excepted.